

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A method of the immobilization of a cell in which a cell is immobilized in a desired region on the surface of a substrate, which comprises: the step (a) of forming a masking layer in a region except for said desired region on the surface of said substrate, the step (b) of immobilizing said cell following the step (a) through bringing a solution containing said cells into contact with the surface of said substrate and the surface of said masking layer, and the step (c) of adjusting the pH of said solution to give the condition which permits separation of said masking layer from said substrate without loss of the activity of said cell following the step (b).

2. (Original) The method of the immobilization of a cell according to claim 1 wherein said solution is a culture medium.

3. (Original) The method of the immobilization of a cell according to claim 1 wherein the step (a) comprises the step of forming said masking layer on the surface of said substrate, and the step of removing said masking layer in said desired region.

4. (Currently amended) The method of the immobilization of a cell according to claim 3, wherein said masking layer is formed from a masking material having photosensitivity, and the step (a) of removing said masking layer is the step of exposing either one of said masking layer in said desired region or in the region other than said desired region, followed by development to form said masking layer in the region other than said desired region.

5. (Original) The method of the immobilization of a cell according to claim 4 wherein the pH of said solution is elevated in the step (c), to be greater than the pH of said solution in the step (b).

6. (Original) The method of the immobilization of a cell according to claim 4 wherein said pH is adjusted to be 7.9 or greater and 8.1 or less in the step (c).

7. (Original) The method of the immobilization of a cell according to claim 1 wherein the pH of said solution is adjusted by adjusting the concentration of carbon dioxide in the ambient atmosphere of said solution in the step (c).

8. (Original) The method of the immobilization of a cell according to claim 1 wherein the pH of said solution is adjusted by adding a pH adjusting agent to said solution in the step (c).

9. (Currently amended) The method of the immobilization of a cell according to claim 1 further comprising the step of heating said masking layer after the step (a) and before the step (b), wherein said heating is conducted at a temperature higher than the boiling point of a detrimental constituent, ~~which is~~ to remove said detrimental constituent included in said masking layer, wherein said detrimental constituent is detrimental to the activity of ~~to~~ said cell.

10. (Currently amended) The method of the immobilization of a cell according to claim 1, which further comprises:

the step of applying an immobilization material for immobilizing said cell to said desired region, between the step (a) and the step (b),

~~wherein said cell is immobilized via an immobilization material in the step (b), and said~~
immobilization material is a material including any one of a cell adhesive protein, a positively charged polymer, or a polymer having a strongly basic functional group.